



Duxbury Performing Arts Center Technical Director Darin MacFarlane and General Manager Tony Kelso shared their thoughts for the future of the PAC, including finishing the orchestra pit and establishing a maintenance fund.

## A Look Back at the PAC

Staff sets goals for future of facility

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

It's been nearly two years since Tony Kelso accepted the position as general manager of the Duxbury Performing Arts Center. Since October of 2004, he has watched the facility serve the schools, the town and outside organizations. He now wants to focus on solidifying the relationships with out-of-town performing arts groups as well as finishing several projects to enhance the facility's functionality.

"The schools' schedule doesn't change too much from year to year," Kelso said. "The outside groups have picked up this past year. This coming year, they're booking like crazy."

Kelso said the Boston Lyric Opera will bring its production of *The Barber of Seville* and The New Repertory Theatre will perform *Anne Frank* and *Hamlet* for Duxbury's students and then offer a performance for students from Marshfield and Plymouth at the PAC. It's Kelso's goal to have these theatrical groups also commit to offering a public performance in addition to the productions for the schools.

"If we can get some Boston groups interested, they can then bring more grown-up shows to town," Kelso said. "It's a gradual process and that's good because we're still breaking in the building."

Kelso and the PAC's Technical Director Darin MacFarlane would like to see some unfinished physical components of the building completed. The orchestra pit still needs some work and MacFarlane said he would like to see more lighting. He said currently, groups requiring more lighting, like Jose Mateo's *Nutcracker*, bring their own additional lights.

"We need to finish the orchestra pit because as it's set up now, the instruments can drown out the singers and the orchestra impacts the amount of space singers and actors have on stage," MacFarlane said. "As far as lighting goes, right now we have basic coverage. We need one-third more or 30 to 40 more instruments to make it workable."

Kelso also envisions con-

verting a room currently being used as an office into a box office. Tickets are currently purchased by entering the Alden School cafeteria.

Kelso and MacFarlane's final major goal is to establish a maintenance fund for the building and host events with all of the profits going directly back to the PAC.

"Even though the facility is only two years old, it gets a lot of use," Kelso said. He added that a maintenance fund would be used for the general upkeep of the building, like painting.

"We'd also like to inch toward doing an event or two that bring in an artist or have a concert produced for the PAC," Kelso said. "Hopefully the proceeds would go back into the PAC."

While he and MacFarlane work toward establishing a viable future for the PAC, they say having the support of Duxbury's superintendent, the school committee and the town make the process that much easier.

"It's important to me and Darin that we have the support from Dr. [Eileen] Williams and the school committee," Kelso said. "Their support helps us build relationships with groups like the *Nutcracker*. The *Nutcracker* now comes to the PAC annually, which brings money to the center and it's an event that people can count on seeing. We want to continue getting groups like this to keep coming back. I'm pleased with how everything is going and I think we're progressing in the right direction."

### Outside Organizations Coming to the PAC in 2006-2007

Bay Players  
Duxbury Business Association  
Nutcracker  
Nova Scotia Youth  
Symphony Orchestra  
Fine Arts Chorale  
South Shore Conservatory  
Hingham Symphony Orchestra  
Jose Mateo Modern Dance  
Concert  
District Music Festival  
Irish Rovers  
Snug Harbor Community  
Chorus  
Snugtones